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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/034,826	12/28/2001	Garrett Holmes	DKT 00054A (BWI-00055)	1464

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Patent Docket Administrator
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EXAMINER	
DONOVAN, LINCOLN D	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2832	

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/034,826	HOLMES ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Lincoln Donovan	2832	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 June 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,5-7 and 9-22* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *9-22* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,2 and 5-7* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 5 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perach [US 4,538,645] in view of Hamilton et al. [US 5,707,039] and Miki et al. [US 5,135,027].

Regarding claim 1, Perach discloses a control valve assembly comprising:

- a housing [40] defining an internal chamber therein;
- an electromagnetic coil [22] wound on a bobbin [38] coaxially mounted within the housing;
- an axially movable armature [72], having first and second ends, mounted in the internal chamber;
- an actuation member [74] extending from the armature;
- a pole piece [46] operably associated with the armature;
- a valve manifold [12] including control passages [16, 18];
- first and second valve seats [figure 3];
- a valve [66] positioned for selectively sealing on the first or second valve seats;
- a spring [76] for biasing the armature; and

- control means [column 5, line 57-column 6, line 14].

Perach discloses the instant claimed invention except for a flux tube partially surrounding the armature, the valve using a ball cooperating with the actuator operable between a supply side seat and an exhaust side seat.

Hamiliton et al. disclose a hydraulic solenoid having an armature [41] interacting with a flux tube [33].

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the flux tube design with the pole piece of Perach, as suggested by Hamilton et al., for the purpose of increasing activation force.

Claims 4-5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perach, as modified, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Barkhimer et al. [US 5,752,689].

Perach, as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the valve being a ball valve.

Miki et al. disclose a solenoid valve assembly having a ball type valve [68, figure 4b] operable between a supply side seat [66a] and an exhaust side seat [66c].

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use a ball type valve design of Barkhimer et al. for the valve of Perach, as modified, for the purpose of maintaining a superior seal.

Regarding claims 2 and 6-7, the specific control functions, bias states and valve positioning would have been an obvious design consideration dependent upon the specific application of the hydraulic valve.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lincoln Donovan whose telephone number is 571-272-1988. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on 571-272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ldd

LINCOLN DONOVAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2800